



700 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-1104  
FAX: (916) 445-1577

September 21, 2006

TO: INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
FROM: KAREN HENRY & WESLEY CHESBRO, CO-CHAIRS  
RE: INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 10

We look forward to our meeting on October 10 and want to provide information and materials that can best help you prepare for our discussions and make a contribution to our decisions. As you can see, we have an ambitious agenda for this upcoming meeting. Three important tasks:

1. We will review the Innovation Committee Draft Work Plan, and make any necessary modifications in the timeline and tasks. Please note that our aim is to have a second meeting within two weeks, to coincide with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC) meeting in Sacramento on October 26-27
2. We will discuss and reach agreement on basic definitions to clearly communicate the meaning and purpose of innovation funding. As a first step to ensure a shared understanding of the characteristics of innovative programs, we want to agree upon a working definition of Innovation, Innovation Need, and Innovative Response. These terms will be reported to the Commission and will form the framework for soliciting public participation at the second meeting in October. Working closely with specialists at the Department of Mental Health and the Mental Health Directors Association, our ultimate task is to recommend procedures so the OAC can ensure that appropriate investments are made to carry out the intent of the Mental Health Services Act.
3. Finally, we will discuss questions about the components of Innovation Programs—questions that will be deliberated with our partners and stakeholders over the next couple of months. We anticipate that you will pose some additional questions as well as offer some answers.

The Act itself identifies a need for innovation in four areas: increase access to underserved groups; increase quality of services, including better outcomes; promote

interagency collaboration; and increase access to services. Further, the Act calls for innovation within both Prevention/Early Intervention and Community Supports and Services plans. This is the context in which the Innovation Committee must promote an understanding of the terms that form the general parameters for innovation funding and the criteria for establishing innovation.

As our work progresses, Innovation Committee proposals will be considered by the Oversight and Accountability Commission for appropriate action. Throughout this process, we will coordinate with Commissioners leading the work on Prevention/Early Intervention and Community Supports and Services. Thank you for your continued interest. Your contribution to our efforts is essential to promoting the fundamental changes that will transform the quality of mental health services and systems.